

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)

---

**TO:** Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

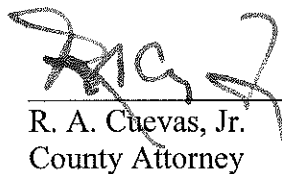
**DATE:** January 22, 2014

**FROM:** R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the Florida  
Legislature to authorize  
additional funding for  
transportation improvements,  
including roads and transit, by  
allowing local governments to  
increase the rental car surcharge  
and Convention Development,  
Tourist Development and Food  
and Beverage Taxes

---

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator Javier D. Souto.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

RAC/cp



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** January 22, 2014

**FROM:** R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☒ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's \_\_\_\_, 3/5's \_\_\_\_, unanimous \_\_\_\_) to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)  
1-22-14

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO  
AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR  
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING ROADS  
AND TRANSIT, BY ALLOWING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS  
TO INCREASE THE RENTAL CAR SURCHARGE AND  
CONVENTION DEVELOPMENT, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT  
AND FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAXES

**WHEREAS**, tourism plays a significant role in Miami-Dade County's local economy;  
and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, more than 13.9 million overnight visitors came to Miami-Dade  
County, infusing \$21.8 billion in direct spending into the local economy through spending on  
hotel rooms, restaurants, shopping, transportation and attractions; and

**WHEREAS**, the hospitality industry in Miami-Dade County employs more than 100,000  
residents and generates nearly \$112 million in tourist-related taxes and more than \$2.4 billion in  
sales tax that supports local government services in South Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, while the 13.9 million overnight visitors greatly assist our local economy,  
tourists add to already existing transportation challenges in Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2012 Urban Mobility Report by the Texas A&M Transportation  
Institute, ranks Southeast Florida, consisting of Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties  
as having the 11<sup>th</sup> worst traffic congestion in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, South Florida traffic congestion has fluctuated in recent decades, but has remained among the most congested areas, according to the Urban Mobility Report; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2000, South Florida ranked 12<sup>th</sup> for traffic congestion and in 2008, ranked 15<sup>th</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, additional funding is needed for transportation in Miami-Dade County, including improvements to road, trains and buses; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida law currently authorizes a number of tourism-related local option taxes which are imposed in Miami-Dade County:

1. A Convention Development Tax of up to 3 percent;
2. A Tourist Development Tax of up to 3 percent, except in the cities of Bal Harbour, Miami Beach and Surfside, where a Municipal Resort Tax is imposed;
3. A Food and Beverage tax in hotels at a rate of 2 percent; and
4. A Food and Beverage tax in other, non-hotel establishments at a rate of 1 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida law also currently imposes a rental car surcharge at the rate of \$2 per day for the first 30 days of the rental of a car; and

**WHEREAS**, 80 percent of the revenue from the rental car surcharge goes to the State Transportation Trust Fund, with the remaining 20 percent split between the State Tourism Promotional Trust Fund and the Florida International Trade and Promotion Trust Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida law requires proceeds from the rental car surcharge that are distributed to the State Transportation Trust Fund to be spent in the transportation district from which they were collected; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Legislature has not increased the \$2 per day rental car surcharge in almost 24 years since 1990; and

**WHEREAS**, additional funding can be generated for much-needed transportation improvements by authorizing local governments to increase the rental car surcharge, Convention Development, Tourist Development and Food and Beverage Taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board would like to urge the Florida Legislature to authorize local governments to increase the rental car surcharge, Convention Development, Tourist Development and Food and Beverage Taxes for the express purpose of providing additional funding for transportation improvements, including both roads and transit,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that this Board:

**Section 1.** Urges the Florida Legislature to provide additional funding for transportation improvements, including roads and transit, by authorizing local governments to increase the rental car surcharge, Convention Development, Tourist Development and Food and Beverage Taxes for the express purpose of funding transportation improvements.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of the resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

**Section 3.** Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the issues identified in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2014 State Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Senator Javier D. Souto. It was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman  
Lynda Bell, Vice Chair

Bruno A. Barreiro  
Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
Sally A. Heyman  
Jean Monestime  
Sen. Javier D. Souto  
Juan C. Zapata

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.  
Audrey M. Edmonson  
Barbara J. Jordan  
Dennis C. Moss  
Xavier L. Suarez

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2014. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.



Jess M. McCarty